

breaks out over there and in the Gulf States, the Persian Gulf could be blocked, and we would lose so much energy we wouldn't even be able to run the lights in this place.

It is extremely important that we have a very strong Iran sanctions bill. I am on the conference committee, and I would say to my colleagues who are conferees, let's make it tough, as tough as possible, because the one thing we want to do is avert a major war with Iran in the Middle East. And I can tell you, I know Bibi Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, is not going to stand by and watch a weapon that could obliterate, destroy Israel, be produced right next door there in Iran. So it is important that the United States take the lead by coming up with a very strong bill that will put sanctions on Iran that they will realize will stop them economically if they don't stop their nuclear development program.

This is probably going to be one of the last chances we will have to stop a nuclear program in Iran that will develop a nuclear weapon and possibly cause a major war and proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the Middle East. This is a very important time not only for them, in the Middle East, Israel and our allies, but it is a big, important time for the United States and all of our allies in Europe. We can't let a terrorist state like Iran get a nuclear weapon, and that is why we need to pass a very strong Iran sanctions bill, and we need to do it right away.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WELCOMING LOCAL LEADERS FROM DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS, TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize Denton County, Texas and members of the Denton County leadership delegation who are visiting here in Washington, D.C. this week. These local officials and business leaders understand that what goes on here in Washington affects their local communities. So this trip, this trip they make every 2 years, is a very important one.

Over the next several days, these individuals will meet with members of the leadership here in Congress, Senators and Representatives from Texas and across the country and, in addition, will find time to visit the soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

I'm pleased to welcome members of some of the chambers of commerce and business associations of Denton County, along with several Denton County local officials to the Nation's Capital.

I also want to thank them for helping to make Denton County a place of entrepreneurship and economic opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit the names of the Denton County delegation for the RECORD.

Sandra Kathleen Beahm
Kent Collins
Patrick L. Davis
Andrew Thomas Eads
Ginger Ann Eads
Al Filidoro
Chuck Fremeux
Kelly Leigh Heslep
Cynthia Rae Howard
Claude E. King
Michael Leavitt
Dee Leggett
Tod Mahoney
Matthew McCormick
Tami McCormick
Scott Ran all McDearmont
Shannon McGary
Brandon McGary
William J. Meek
Stan Morton
Jody Smith
Suzene Thompson
Harold Dean Ueckert
Catherine Ann Ueckert
Charlotte Jeanette Wilcox

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GRAYSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE 111TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, tonight and beginning each week, we will begin the week talking about the accomplishments of both President Obama, as well as the Democratic leadership in the legislature. The efforts of the Democratic Caucus over the last year and a half, particu-

larly since President Obama was sworn in have truly been remarkable. The efforts have been remarkable, but also the accomplishments.

And I think it's important that we continue to talk to the American people about those accomplishments, particularly when compared to some of the commentary that's out there in the media because, from watching some news programs, one would think that we were all here in the Chamber sitting in our chairs, fast asleep, as opposed to working and keeping our heads down and being very focused and working under the leadership of President Obama to make sure that we can turn the absolute nightmare that we were handed by the former Bush administration into the new direction that we talked about and that the American people elected us to take this country in.

And so tonight my colleagues and I are going to spend some time outlining those accomplishments. But I think it's important and instructive to first look at where we were, and then talk about where we are now. So that's some of what we're going to do this evening.

If you look back to January of 2009, which was the month, Mr. TONKO, that President Obama was sworn in, during that month the economy was yet again bleeding 700,000-plus jobs. And I think we have a chart here that I can use to illustrate that. But I think the most illustrative example of where we were, versus where we are today is this chart.

If you look back, this chart begins in December of '07, and you can see through the end of the Bush administration, Mr. Speaker, that the economy was steadily getting worse. We were bleeding jobs. By the time President Obama took office in January of '09, we literally were at 700,000-plus jobs lost, and that continued all the way up until February of '09 with the passage of the American Economic Recovery Act.

Now, I've heard a lot of malarkey in the news media out there, and particularly quite a lot from our friends on the other side of the aisle, about the supposed absence of job creation that the Recovery Act generated.

Well, the numbers don't lie, Mr. Speaker. If you look at the direction that job creation has gone in, and our economic recovery has begun, you look at the blue line beginning in February of '09 with the passage of the Recovery Act, and you progress all the way up where we were losing month by month fewer and fewer jobs; and we talked about how, obviously, any job losses are unacceptable, until we reached this most recent month in April. And I think actually this chart—it doesn't even, the numbers are even better, Mr. ALTMIRE, than we have on this chart. But this chart shows it up through March where we added 167,000 jobs.

In April, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, we actually added 290,000 jobs in April. The vast majority of those were private sector jobs. We do know that we have